

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /049 W

-----088622 182113Z /65-S

O 182027Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4931

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, IS, XA

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ATTENDANCE AT LAGOS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 196211 EXDIS

1. AMB LEONARD PASSED ON TO ISRAELI UN PERM REP HERZOG AUG 18 A.M. THE SUBSTANCE OF DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTING ISRAELI TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION AGAINST ATTENDING THE LAGOS CONFERENCE (REFTEL). HERZOG SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED UN SECRETARIAT TO HOLD UP HIS LETTER INFORMING UN PERM REPS OF THE ISRAELI DECISION, BUT WAS INFORMED THAT CHINESE AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED. MOREOVER, ISRAELI LETTER HAD ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN NEW YORK TIMES.

2. HERZOG SAID THAT HE HAD MADE THIS LAST MINUTE EFFORT AND HAD BEEN PREPARED TO SEEK NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM JERUSALEM AT OUR REQUEST, BUT THAT HE BELIEVED THAT GOI DECISION WAS CORRECT. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A CUMULATIVE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENTS AGAINST ISRAELI PARTICIPATION. IN ADDITION TO THE REJECTION OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, HE MENTIONED (A) THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ISSUE REGULAR RATHER THAN DIPLOMATIC VISAS TO ISRAELI PARTICIPANTS, (B) A TEN-MINUTE TIME LIMIT ON THE ISRAELI PRESENTATION AND (C) INVITATIONS TO THE PLO AND THE COMMITTEE
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ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THEESE ACTIONS INDICATED THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE A STRONG ANTI-ISRAELI BIAS.

3. HERZOG ALSO TOLD US THAT THE NORWEGIANS AND SOME EC-9 MEMBERS, WHO ORIGINALLY HAD ENCOURAGED ISRAELI ATTENDANCE AT LAGOS, HAD CHANGED THEIR MIND AND TOLD HERZOG

THEY NOW BELIEVED IT WAS BETTER IF ISRAEL DID NOT ATTEND.
THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT ISRAELI ATTENDANCE WOULD SHIFT
THE FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE.

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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